

Australian Capital Territory



CATALOGUE NO. 1303.8

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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1995

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Series updated since the July 1995 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals, price index of house building materials (price indexes for Canberra will no longer be produced after June 1995), building commencements, engineering construction; consumer price index, retail turnover, and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- The trend estimate for the number employed in the ACT climbed steadily over the last six months (2.1%). In July 1995, 157,000 people were employed in the ACT; up 0.6 per cent from the previous month. The national trend for employment increased to 8,275,900; an increase of 0.2 per cent from the previous month. Trend unemployment for the ACT remained constant for July 1995 at 12,100 after increasing over the period from March 1995. Though the unemployment rate for the ACT continued to remain at 7.2 per cent, the participation rate increased slightly by 0.4 percentage points.
- The trend series for the value of housing commitments financed in the ACT continued to decline to its lowest point since December 1991 (\$58.5 million). The value of financed housing commitments in the ACT for May 1995 was \$61.0 million; a decrease of 4.2 per cent from the previous month. In contrast, the seasonally adjusted estimate for the value of commitments increased by 11.4 per cent to \$65.4 million. Nationally the trend series fell by 2.3 per cent in the same period.
- The trend for the total number of ACT dwelling units approved in June 1995 was 146; a decrease of 9.3 per cent from the previous month. It represents the largest monthly fall since February 1995 (10.0%) after 7 consecutive months of significant falls (between 2.7% and 9.0% from November 1994 to May 1995). All original estimates for the value of approvals decreased, with residential alterations and additions incurring the highest decrease (30.4%), followed by new residential buildings (28.2%) and non-residential buildings (26.9%). The total value of building approvals decreased by \$12.3 million (28.3%) to \$31.1 million.
- The number of new dwelling units commenced in the ACT decreased by 15.3 per cent to 316 units in the March quarter 1995. In value terms, this represents a decrease of 11.6 per cent to \$37.5 million. Similarly, the value of non-residential building commencements and the value of total commencements for the ACT also decreased in the same quarter to \$55.5 million (-24.3%) and \$128.9 million (-26.1%), respectively.
- The value of engineering construction work done during the March quarter 1995 decreased by 32.5 per cent to \$34.3 million. This represents the second greatest fall across all States and Territories in the period.
- The price index of house building materials for Canberra continued to rise in June 1995, with a slight increase of 0.1 per cent. In contrast, the weighted average of the six State capital cities decreased by 0.4 per cent. In the twelve months from June 1994, the price index increased by 2.2 per cent for the ACT compared to the 2.4 per cent increase for the combined cities' weighted average.
- The All groups CPI for Canberra increased by 1.1 per cent in the June quarter 1995, with an annual increase of 5.0 per cent. This was the highest annual growth for Canberra since September 1994. Both the housing and the tobacco and alcohol groups contributed 0.8 per cent to the quarterly increase. These increases were largely the result of higher mortgage interest charges, beer prices and tobacco licence fees. The transportation group followed with a 0.7 per cent contribution to the overall increase in Canberra's price index. The weighted average of the eight capital cities increased by 1.3 per cent in the June quarter 1995 and 4.5 per cent over the year.
- The trend estimate in the ACT retail turnover increased by 0.1 per cent to \$182.0 million for June 1995. Similar to other States/Territories, the increase for June 1995 was the weakest growth recorded in the ACT since June 1994. The ACT also recorded the lowest growth across all States/Territories. The major contributors to the downturn in retail turnover for the ACT were household goods retailing (-3.1% not published in *ACT Business Indicators*); and department stores (-1.3%). Both of these sectors produced their lowest turnover since April 1988 (\$15.7 million) and December 1993 (\$23.1 million), respectively. The recreational goods retailing, and clothing and soft goods retailing sectors (both not published in *ACT Business Indicators*) showed the highest increases in turnover at 0.8 per cent.
- In trend terms, the number of new motor vehicles registered in June 1995 for the ACT rose steadily to 1,116. It increased by 1.3 per cent from the previous month and 17.8 per cent from the previous year. This was above the national increases of 0.8 per cent and 10.8 per cent in the corresponding periods.

Tim Power

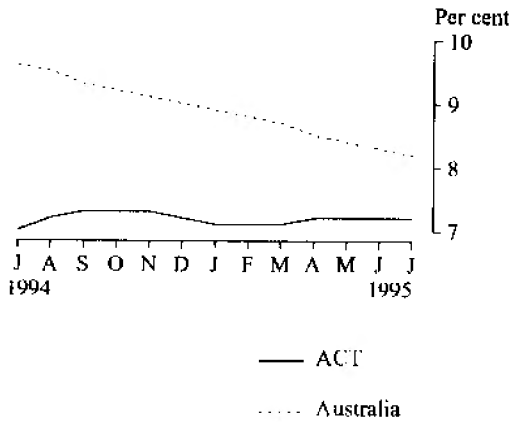
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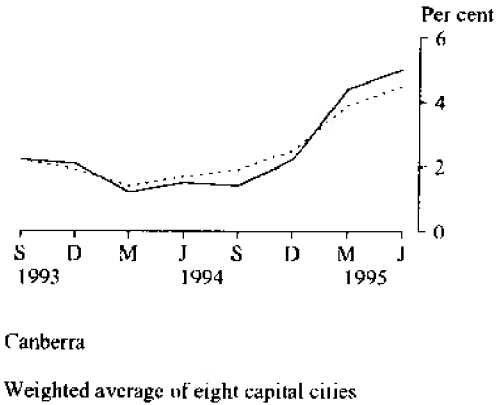
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

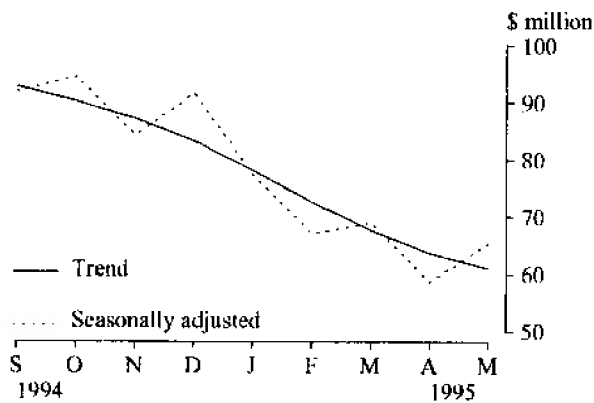
LABOUR FORCE - TREND
Unemployment rate



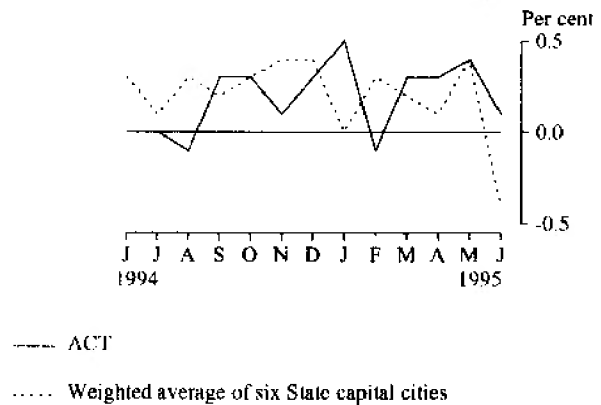
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS
Percentage change from corresponding qtr of previous year



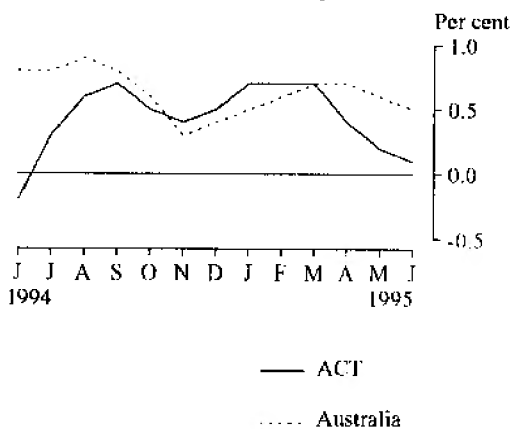
HOUSING FINANCE
Value of commitment



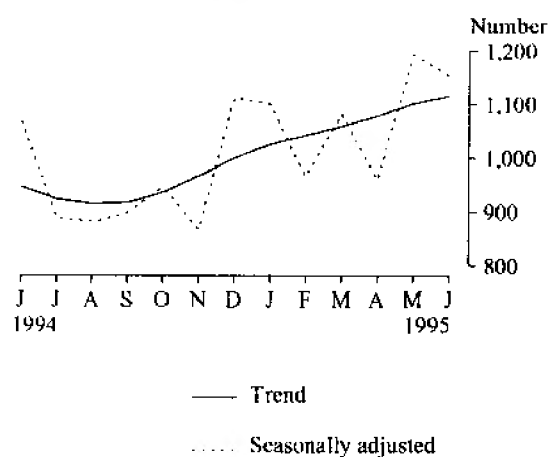
HOUSE BUILDING MATERIAL PRICE INDEX
Percentage change from previous month



RETAIL TURNOVER - TREND
Percentage change from previous month



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, SEPTEMBER
QUARTER 1995/JUNE QUARTER 1996
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE
(per cent)**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Short-term		
June qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1994	1.1	3.6
Dec. qtr 1994–Mar. qtr 1995	1.3	0.5
Mar. qtr 1995–June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4
June qtr 1995–Sept. qtr 1995	0.8	1.3
Medium-term		
June qtr 1994–June qtr 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. qtr 1994–Sept. qtr 1995	1.5	2.9
Dec. qtr 1994–Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3
Mar. qtr 1995–Mar. qtr 1996	3.0	3.0
June qtr 1995–June qtr 1996	0.8	2.3

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1995

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period	Latest figure	Change from previous period	Change from same period
			(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, December qtr 94	'000	301.7	0.1	0.8	17 938.5	0.2	1.1
Natural increase	no.	813	13.9	4.9	33 042	16.3	0.4
Net migration	no.	615	439.5	17.6	8 798	64.8	113.4
Total increase	no.	198	- 67.0	21.4	41 840	21.7	13.0
LABOUR FORCE, July 95p							
Original series							
Employed	'000	158.5	1.0	2.5	8 293.6	0.2	3.9
Unemployed	'000	11.1	2.8	5.7	709.6	- 2.1	- 11.7
Unemployment rate(a)	%	6.5	0.1	0.2	7.9	0.2	- 1.2
Participation rate(a)	%	73.6	0.8	1.3	63.7	—	0.7
Long-term unemployed (June 95)	no.	2 705	- 10.6	- 5.9	243 062	- 1.3	- 20.1
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (June)(a)	%	25.1	0.2	- 2.6	33.5	0.8	- 2.7
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.0	0.6	1.9	8 275.9	0.2	4.3
Unemployed	'000	12.1	—	4.3	743.0	0.9	- 12.1
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	—	0.2	8.2	- 0.1	- 1.4
Participation rate(a)	%	73.4	0.4	0.8	63.8	—	0.9
JOB VACANCIES, May 95	'000	1.3	—	31.6	53.7	6.1	8.7
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, April 95							
Working days lost	'000	—	—	- 100.0	27.1	- 35.0	5.9
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended April 95)	no.	5	- 16.7	- 93.8	73	- 1.4	- 17.0
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, May 95							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.3	6.8	51.9	572.9	28.1	- 31.3
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	13.5	92.9	42.3	194.1	28.3	- 14.9
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	45.8	27.9	34.3	2 899.8	28.9	- 19.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	77.0	29.6	- 36.0	3 666.7	28.7	- 21.0
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	65.4	11.4	40.1	3 075.2	- 1.9	- 29.7
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	61.0	- 4.2	42.7	3 106.1	- 2.3	- 27.6
BUILDING APPROVALS, June 95							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	153	- 32.9	48.8	12 206	12.8	- 30.8
Value of new residential	\$m	15.8	- 28.2	45.7	1 095.3	- 18.4	- 29.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	3.2	- 30.4	31.9	184.6	- 13.9	- 5.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	12.2	- 26.9	41.6	1 050.7	10.1	9.8
Value of total building	\$m	31.1	- 28.3	43.2	2 330.6	- 7.2	- 20.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	146	- 9.3	41.4	11 595	- 2.5	- 30.0
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, March qtr 95							
New houses	no.	316	15.3	14.8	24 259	23.9	15.4
Value of houses commenced	\$m	37.5	- 11.6	7.4	2 369.1	- 22.1	- 9.9
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	55.5	- 24.3	- 65.3	2 093.0	- 4.9	- 7.3
Value of total commencements	\$m	128.9	26.1	53.4	6 059.2	16.4	4.6

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, AUGUST 1995 *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION — continued							
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Mar. qtr 95 (1989-90=100.0)		130.8	0.2	-3.0	113.2	1.0	3.3
Price index of house building materials, June 95 (b)		154.9	0.1	2.2	158.0	0.4	2.4
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, June qtr 95 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		116.7	0.3	4.8	113.7	0.4	3.8
Housing		110.7	1.8	11.5	104.7	1.8	10.9
Transportation		122.1	2.0	3.7	118.8	1.3	3.1
All groups		117.6	1.1	5.0	116.2	1.3	4.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, February 95							
Original series							
Males	\$	708.00	1.3	-0.6	650.10	1.1	3.9
Females	\$	512.80	4.4	4.6	430.60	1.3	3.3
Total persons	\$	610.30	3.3	1.5	548.20	1.2	3.6
Trend series							
Males	\$	703.00	0.3	-0.4	647.20	0.8	4.0
Females	\$	503.00	0.3	3.3	425.90		2.6
Total persons	\$	601.60	0.2	1.0	544.40	0.4	3.4
RETAIL TURNOVER, June 95							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	71.4	2.3	13.9	3 703.9	-0.9	11.0
Department stores	\$m	22.7	—	3.8	906.8	-2.2	-0.7
Hospitality and services	\$m	27.7	-7.7	0.4	1 620.7	-1.7	11.9
All other retailing	\$m	53.6	0.9	7.6	3 091.8	1.3	7.0
Total	\$m	175.4	-2.5	7.1	9 323.2	-1.3	8.6
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	73.9	0.5	13.9	3 804.5	0.5	10.0
Department stores	\$m	23.1	-1.3	2.1	933.3	0.5	1.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	30.0	0.7	2.0	1 709.0	0.5	9.6
All other retailing	\$m	55.0	0.4	2.2	3 179.9	0.7	5.2
Total	\$m	182.0	0.1	6.0	9 626.7	0.5	7.4
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, December qtr 94							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	215.8	0.9	0.1	9 051.2	1.4	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.4	-2.1	0.5	796.9	4.9	12.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.5	15.2	12.7	624.3	3.6	5.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	204.1	-3.6	1.0	8 878.1	2.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	6.8	1.7	770.5	4.3	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.0	18.6	11.4	612.3	1.7	5.8
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	205.8	-1.5	0.7	8 840.5	2.2	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	18.1	-1.1	3.4	767.2	4.0	12.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.2	4.4	-3.2	619.6	0.4	7.3
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, June 95							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 247	-2.0	3.7	59 816	-6.7	3.2
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 153	3.4	7.9	54 368	-6.2	5.3
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 116	1.3	17.8	56 146	0.8	10.8
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, March qtr 95							
Original series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	1 970	11.3	2.7	99 887	9.1	4.2
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 277	10.7	3.4	109 448	8.2	5.9
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 721	7.7	0.6	97 154	9.4	5.5
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 254	8.9	4.8	68 115	7.6	7.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	243	16.2	1.3	17 253	15.8	8.3
Trend series							
Gross State product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 106	0.8	3.9	104 187	0.5	4.0
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 439	1.4	5.7	114 225	1.2	5.8
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 900	0.3	0.8	103 224	0.9	5.8
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 333	1.6	4.5	71 130	1.8	7.1
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	279	0.4	6.1	19 212	0.7	13.0

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 40.001, 8762.0, 40.001, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Dec. qtr 94	6 081.2	4 487.0	3 233.9	1 471.9	1 715.3	472.6	172.7	301.7	17 938.5
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	July 95p	2 757.7	2 073.7	1 519.5	657.2	834.5	201.3	80.3	157.0	8 275.9
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	July 95p	7.4	8.6	8.8	9.9	7.3	9.2	7.8	7.2	8.2
STATE ACCOUNTS											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	35 324	27 332	17 151	7 230	11 746	2 127	1 182	2 106	104 187
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	38 906	29 859	18 674	8 310	12 240	2 422	1 237	2 439	114 225
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	June 95	3 649	2 326	3 271	646	1 795	209	157	153	12 206
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	June 95	3 930	2 281	2 944	537	1 446	227	156	146	11 595
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	June 95	303.9	181.4	398.3	47.9	41.6	15.0	50.5	12.2	1 050.7
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	June 95	740.9	444.8	706.4	107.2	197.1	33.8	69.3	31.1	2 330.6
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Mar. qtr 95	1 085.6	604.9	664.4	156.8	372.8	50.5	50.1	34.3	3 019.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb. qtr 94	661.80	631.30	593.50	612.60	636.60	600.90	657.40	721.30	636.00
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	June 95	3 353.5	2 228.7	1 797.4	751.4	963.9	236.9	112.8	182.0	9 626.7
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Dec. qtr 94	3 025.4	1 409.4	2 338.5	503.3	787.9	263.0	307.2	205.8	8 840.5
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	June 95	19 412	13 594	10 355	3 837	5 783	1 270	779	1 116	56 146
			Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)											
Food		June qtr 95	114.0	111.7	114.5	115.7	115.7	116.1	115.5	116.7	113.7
Housing		June qtr 95	106.6	102.0	110.7	102.2	99.0	104.5	115.5	110.7	104.7
Transportation		June qtr 95	116.8	119.9	117.4	121.4	121.4	117.2	116.4	122.1	118.8
All Groups		June qtr 95	115.4	116.2	116.9	118.8	114.9	117.1	116.8	117.6	116.2
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	107.0	111.0	111.0	104.0	108.0	117.0	99.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Mar. qtr 95	177.0	154.0	168.0	138.0	155.0	157.0	185.0	176.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	1 267.0	1 068.0	1 130.0	1 139.0	1 142.0	1 155.0	1 226.0	1 152.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	303.0	317.0	293.0	328.0	337.0	350.0	344.0	282.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Mar. qtr 95	107.0	136.0	109.0	100.0	124.0	76.0	122.0	109.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant	150 g jar	Mar. qtr 95	583.0	581.0	574.0	572.0	556.0	636.0	514.0	593.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Mar. qtr 95	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring --- petrol, leaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	68.9	70.5	62.6	71.3	72.9	72.5	74.5	72.8	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 95	66.9	68.5	60.6	69.1	70.9	70.5	72.5	70.8	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Dec. qtr 94	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3	—	0.5	0.1	0.2
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	July 95p	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	— 0.6	0.6	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	July 95p	— 0.2	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.2	—	— 0.1
STATE ACCOUNTS										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Mar. qtr 95	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.5
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Mar. qtr 95	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.3	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	June 95	27.7	— 16.4	4.1	9.7	0.1	— 16.7	3.7	— 32.9	— 12.8
Dwelling units approved (trend)	June 95	— 3.3	—	1.6	7.6	2.7	— 3.0	4.7	9.3	— 2.5
Value of non-residential building approved	June 95	— 3.0	— 21.5	55.1	35.3	34.3	4.9	111.3	26.9	10.1
Value of all buildings approved	June 95	— 18.9	— 24.3	25.2	17.8	— 13.2	— 9.6	47.1	— 28.3	— 7.2
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Mar. qtr 95	11.7	9.0	16.4	8.4	— 1.6	25.3	41.9	— 32.5	8.7
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb. qtr 95	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.0
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	June 95	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.1	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Dec. qtr 94	3.0	3.0	0.8	4.3	0.8	— 2.4	12.2	1.5	2.2
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	June 95	— 0.7	2.2	0.3	1.4	2.8	3.6	5.0	1.3	0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
Food	June qtr 95	0.5	0.4	0.4		0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4
Housing	June qtr 95	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.8
Transportation	June qtr 95	1.2	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.0	1.3
All Groups	June qtr 95	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 95	1.9	2.8	3.7	2.0	1.9	1.7			n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 95	4.1	— 1.3	9.8	7.8	3.3	1.9	3.9	3.5	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Mar. qtr 95	2.5	— 1.6	— 0.8	1.3	6.0	1.2	— 6.2	0.6	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Mar. qtr 95	9.4	1.0	1.7	0.9	8.0	5.1	4.4	3.7	n.a.
Potatoes	Mar. qtr 95	— 1.8	13.3	2.8	5.3	1.6	7.0	8.9	—	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Mar. qtr 95	10.8	8.6	7.5	9.8	6.7	5.8	— 8.5	10.2	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Mar. qtr 95	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.3	2.3	1.4	2.1	—	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, leaded	Mar. qtr 95	1.6	1.6	3.8	0.7	5.3	4.4	1.5	1.8	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, unleaded	Mar. qtr 95	1.7	1.6	3.9	0.6	5.5	4.5	1.5	1.9	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: nil or rounded to zero; n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data; n.p. — not available for publication.

